

Provisional Vital Statistics for December 2003

Live births decreased in December as 5,848 Missouri babies were born compared with 6,890 one year earlier. However, cumulative births for the 12 month ending with December showed a slight increase, from 75,167 to 75,530.

Deaths decreased in December as 4,248 Missourians died compared with 4,879 in December 2002. Cumulative deaths also decreased as 53,406 Missourians died in 2003, a 4 percent reduction from the previous year.

The **Natural increase** for December was 1,600 (5,846 births minus 4,248 deaths). This represented a decrease from the previous December, but an increase for the 12 months ending with December.

Marriages decreased in December and for the 12 months ending with December. The provisional count of 39,986 marriages in 2003 would represent the lowest such count since 1965.

Dissolutions of marriage also decreased in December and the 12 months ending with December. The 2003 provisional count of 22,446 would be the lowest since 1974.

Infant deaths decreased in December and for the 12 months ending with December. The 2003 provisional infant death rate of 8.0 per 1,000 live births is 6 percent below the 2002 rate of 8.5.

PROVISIONAL RESIDENT VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE STATE OF MISSOURI

<u>Item</u>	<u>December</u>				<u>12 months ending with December</u>								
	<u>Number</u>		<u>Rate*</u>		<u>Number</u>				<u>Rate*</u>				
	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>
Live Births	6,890	5,848	13.4	12.1	76,329	75,290	75,167	75,530	13.6	13.6	13.4	13.2	13.2
Deaths	4,879	4,248	9.5	8.8	54,602	54,601	55,636	53,406	10.0	9.8	9.7	9.8	9.4
Natural increase	2,011	1,600	3.9	3.3	21,727	20,689	19,531	22,124	3.5	3.8	3.7	3.4	3.9
Marriages	2,390	2,126	4.7	4.4	43,665	42,086	41,552	39,986	8.0	7.8	7.5	7.3	7.0
Dissolutions	1,937	1,813	3.8	3.7	24,980	23,458	22,593	22,446	4.4	4.5	4.2	4.0	3.9
Infant deaths	59	41	8.6	7.0	547	555	638	607	7.7	7.2	7.4	8.5	8.0
Population base (in thousands)	...	...	5,674	5,709	...	...	...	...	5,547	5,595	5,637	5,674	5,709

* Rates for live births, deaths, natural increase, marriages and dissolutions are computed on the number per 1,000 estimated population. The infant death rate is based on the number of infant deaths per 1000 live births. Rates are adjusted to account for varying lengths of monthly reporting periods.

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